



Esteemed members of the Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. I am a resident of New London and the Executive Director of the Sailfest.

Please keep the current level of Shore Line East service in the budget.

I am concerned that in a tight budget year, the Governor's transportation funds for Shore Line East service will be cut to 50% of current levels. I am also concerned that we prioritize car transportation over rail, to the detriment of our Southeastern Connecticut citizens and businesses.

I primarily think keeping SLE service in the budget is important because:

**Investing in automobiles is a losing proposition and one that doesn't position the state to be successful in a changing world.**

One car traveling between New London and New Haven generates 1,848 lbs. of carbon dioxide and 84 lbs. of pollution every month and consumes approximately 50 gallons of gas. Private automobiles use twice as much fuel and generate almost twice as much carbon dioxide and pollution as public transportation.

**New generations of the work force are more interested than ever to ride rail.**

Connecticut is one of the few states where residents can enjoy a high living standard with public transportation to job hubs like Stamford, New York and New Haven. It's been recognized that Millennials are seeking out cities where they don't need to own a car. Connecticut can capitalize on this trend.

**Currently SLE has been running a special train during Sailfest** that is a huge success and helps keep congestion off the roads. I have attached a picture of people getting off the train at Sailfest.



Thanks,  
Barbara J. Neff